

Microbial Genetics Laboratory

April 19, 1955

Mr. Carl W. Birky  
Route 1, Box 61  
Fort Collins, Colo.

Dear Mr. Birky:

I am writing to you as the result of a conversation with Professor Tracy Sonneborn a few days ago. He told me of your interest in microbial genetics, and spoke very highly of you. He also told me that you were now making your plans for your admission to college.

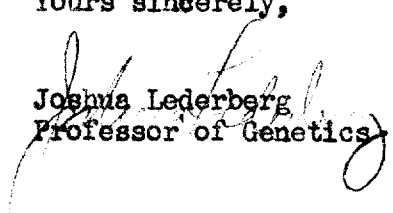
On Dr. Sonneborn's advice, I called our Office of Admissions, and was disappointed to learn that you had received, but had not returned, the application forms. Tracy and I both felt that Wisconsin would have a great deal to offer for the education of a person with your interests. I am writing to be sure that you have had every opportunity to weigh the advantages.

If you have not yet made a definite decision, and would like to discuss this matter further, please let me know. At the same time it would be important for you to complete and return the applications for admission; you can confirm or withdraw them later when you finally make up your mind. The Admissions Office will also send you scholarship application forms, if you have not already gotten them. Do not be too concerned about the overdue deadline, as it may still be possible to make some arrangement.

If nothing else, I hope this letter will emphasize that you need not worry about receiving individual attention, despite the size of this university. Especially with our Integrated Liberal Studies program, you could have all the individual flexibility of a small school, coupled with the resources of the graduate and research schools of a university.

In any event, let me join in Dr. Sonneborn's best wishes for your career in biological research.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics